



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SEATTLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 3755
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98124-3755

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Civil Programs and Project Branch

SEP 04 2009

FILE COPY

Honorable Brian N. Baird
House of Representatives
2350 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Baird:

This letter is in response to your inquiry, dated July 17, 2009, regarding incorporation of the Lewis County Public Utility District Chehalis River Water Retention Facilities Potential Study (PUD Study) into the Centralia Flood Reduction Project (Twin Cities Project). The PUD Study examines the impacts of building two dams on the Chehalis River, above Pe Ell and in Boistfort Valley.

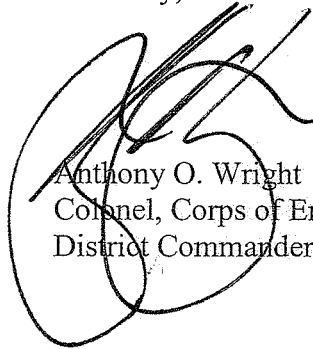
The results of the PUD Study can not be incorporated into the Twin Cities Project, as new water retention facilities were not authorized in the currently approved project. To include the water retention facilities under the Twin Cities Project, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District (Corps) would have to initiate a new feasibility study to evaluate this additional use. Any new water retention project recommended as a result of this analysis would require reauthorization. This would significantly delay the initiation of a flood hazard management project for the Twin Cities.

Water retention will be evaluated as an alternative under the ongoing Chehalis River Basin General Investigation (GI) study. The ecosystem restoration and flood risk management project purposes that are currently being scoped for the Chehalis River Basin GI study will be reflected in an updated Project Management Plan which will supplement the amended Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement with the local cost sharing sponsor. The Corps will evaluate the PUD Study, as well as the Corps 1982 Interim Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement, and any other existing information as input for the Chehalis River Basin GI study.

As the Chehalis Basinwide GI and PUD studies progress, we will consider any new and significant technical information derived from those studies, in particular at key decision points during the design of the Twin Cities project. We will evaluate water retention during the Basinwide GI Study and minimize delays to design and construction of the Twin Cities project as much as possible.

I look forward to working with the community, the local sponsor and your office to provide the best solutions to protect the citizens, property, and environment throughout the Chehalis River Basin. A copy of this letter has also been sent to your Washington State office at 120 Union Avenue South East, Suite 105, Olympia, Washington 98501. If you would like to further discuss this project or require additional information please free to contact Mr. William Goss, Project Manager, at (206) 764-3267 or william.a.goss@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Wright', is written over the typed name and title.

Anthony O. Wright
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Commander